

Election Assistance Commission
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Washington, D.C. 20002

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- ELECTRONIC VOTING - NEW COMMISSION TO HOLD HEARING

WASHINGTON – Members of the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) met Tuesday in the first public meeting for the newly established agency. The Commission elected officers, presented status reports on current projects and announced plans for a hearing on electronic voting within the next forty-five days.

The Commissioners elected Dr. DeForest B. Soaries, Jr. as its Chairman and Gracia M. Hillman as Vice-Chair. The members also presented several status reports. Commissioner Ray Martinez discussed publication of State HAVA plans in the *Federal Register* and the timetable for the distribution of grant monies to the States. Reports on the status of boards and committees dealing with voting system standards were also presented. Commissioner Hillman discussed the formation of the Standards Board and Board of Advisors and Commissioner Paul DeGregorio discussed the formation of the Technical Guidelines Development Committee.

The Commission recognized the significant contributions of various other federal agencies for their support services in the establishment of the new Commission. In response to a request by Chairman Soaries, the Commission approved a motion to hold a hearing on electronic voting within the next forty-five days. The Chairman expressed that "Many questions exist about the reliability and security of electronic voting devices. The Election Assistance Commission is responsible to insure that every American who wants to vote in November can vote and that their vote is counted. We must have a thorough airing of the critical e-voting issues and American needs to know the result."